



File Code: 1950
Date: November 6, 2019

Dear Reader,

The Daniel Boone National Forest, Redbird Ranger District, has prepared an environmental assessment for the South Red Bird Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project. This project proposes to facilitate habitat enhancement and forest restoration through a variety of methods on about 12,000 acres, conduct controlled prescribed fires on approximately 7,500 acres, and reroute nearly 20 miles of the Redbird Crest Trail. The project boundary encompasses approximately 55,750 acres, of which nearly 32,275 acres are National Forest System (NFS) lands in the southern portion of the Redbird Ranger District, spanning portions of Clay, Leslie, and Bell Counties, Kentucky. The project area is bisected north to south by the Redbird River which serves as the Clay and Leslie County border. In Clay County, the northwestern portion of project area lies within the Sandhill region, south to Blue Hole Creek and Highway 1524. In Leslie County, the northeastern portion of the project begins above Left Fork of Elisha Creek south to Upper Jacks Creek and Oakley Cave Branch.

Details about the proposed project and maps of the project area are available on-line at: <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52340>. The EA and supporting documentation is also available for review at the *Redbird Ranger District*. Additional information regarding this project or activity can be obtained from Randy Swilling, William.swilling@usda.gov, Redbird District Ranger, 91 Peabody Road, Big Creek, Kentucky, 40914, 606-589-2192. The proposed project is an activity implementing a land management plan and is subject to pre-decisional objection process at 36 CFR 218 Subparts A and B.

This environmental assessment is being sent to the contact lists for the Daniel Boone National Forest and the list of collaborators for the South Red Bird Project. The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in the *Manchester Enterprise*, the newspaper of record for the Redbird Ranger District. The publication date of the legal notice in the newspaper of record is the exclusive means for calculating the time to submit written comments on a proposed project or activity, and those wishing to comment should not rely upon dates or timeframe information provided by another source.

This environmental assessment and legal notice of the comment period will also be posted on the Project Planning website for the DBNF, and comments can be submitted at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=52340> or at <https://cara.ecosystem-management.org/Public/CommentInput?Project=52340>. Comments can also be emailed to SM.FS.r8dbredcom@usda.gov.



Please provide the following information as part of your comments:

1. Name and address;
2. Title of the proposed action (South Red Bird Wildlife Habitat Enhancement Project);
3. Specific comments on the proposed action, along with supporting reasons that the Responsible Official should consider in reaching a decision;
4. Signature or other verification of identity upon request.

Written comments must be submitted to: Robert Claybrook, Redbird District Ranger, 91 Peabody Road, Big Creek, KY, 40914, 606-589-2192, and/or robert.claybrook@usda.gov. The office business hours for those submitting hand-delivered comments are: 8:00 am to 4:30 pm Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. For objection eligibility, each individual or representative from each entity submitting timely and specific written comments regarding the proposed project or activity must either sign the comments or verify identity upon request §218.24(b)(8). Please state "South Red Bird Project" in the subject line when providing electronic comments, or on the envelope when replying by mail. Comments received in response to this solicitation, including names of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record on this proposed action and will be available for public inspection. Comments submitted anonymously will be accepted and considered; however, anonymous comments will not provide the agency with the ability to provide the respondent with subsequent environmental documents or standing for administrative review.

Thank you for your interest in proposed projects on the Daniel Boone National Forest.

Sincerely,



ROBERT CLAYBROOK
District Ranger